

1 Claims

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3 1 Restraining apparatus for coupling two or more
4 users comprising at least one spine member with at
5 least two lateral attachment members for coupling
6 the users to the spine member, the spine member
7 having two planes, and having more flexibility in
8 one plane than in the other.

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10 2 Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, where the
11 spine member is an elongate rod or plate from which
12 the lateral attachment members extend sideways.

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14 3 Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2,
15 wherein the spine member is inextensible along its
16 long axis.

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18 4 Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,
19 wherein the spine member is rigid in its vertical
20 plane but has a degree of lateral resilience.

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22 5 Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,
23 wherein the spine member is at least partially
24 formed from a material selected from the group
25 comprising plastics material, composite material,
26 and resilient materials.

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28 6 Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,
29 wherein the spine comprises a stiffening member to
30 enhance rigidity in one plane.

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1 7 Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the
2 stiffening member is at least partially formed from
3 a material selected from the group consisting of
4 plastics, metals and composite materials.

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6 8 Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,
7 wherein the attachment members are releasably
8 secured to the spine member.

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10 9 Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the
11 attachment members comprise elongate arms extending
12 laterally from the spine member.

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14 10 Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the
15 arms are flexible and/or axially extensible and/or
16 compressible.

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18 11 Apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the
19 arms are pivotable with respect to the spine member.

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21 12 Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein two
22 or more arms are provided and at least two of the
23 arms are pivotable with respect to each other.

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25 13 Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 8-
26 12, wherein respective attachment members extend
27 from different sides of the spine member.

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29 14 Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 8-
30 12, wherein attachment members are staggered along
31 the spine member.

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1 15 Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,
2 including harnesses worn by each user and wherein
3 the attachment members are adapted to attach to the
4 harnesses.

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6 16 Apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the
7 attachment members are adapted to attach releasably
8 to the harnesses.

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10 17 Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,
11 incorporating luminous, reflective and/or light
12 emitting devices.

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14 18 A method of securing or restraining a person,
15 comprising harnessing the person to a spine member
16 via an attachment member, the spine member having at
17 least two planes, and having a different degree of
18 flexibility in respective planes.

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20 19 A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein more
21 than one person is harnessed to the spine member.

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